The question was put and the motion was adopted.

MOTION FOR ELECTION TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): Madam, I move:

> "That this House concurs in the recommendation of the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha do agree to nominate one Member from Rajya Sabha vice Shri Vayalar Ravi retired from Rajya Sabha to associate with the Committee on Public Accounts of the Lok Sabha for the unexpired portion of the term of the Committee and do proceed to elect in such manner as the Chairman may direct, one Member from among the Members of the House to serve on the said Committee."

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

Re: PROBLEMS BEING FACED BY KHADI AND VILLAGE INDUSTRIES

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (DR. MANMOHAN SINGH): Madam, with your permission, I would like to say two words on the problems being faced by khadi and village industries. Madam, khadi is not a piece of cloth, but as Mahatma Gandhi stated, it represents a thought process. The spinning and weaving of khadi became a powerful weapon in our freedom struggle. And today happens to be the Quit India day, and therefore, it is appropriate that we should be discussing also the great importance of khadi in the revitalization of our village economy. Madam, some years ago when the Congress Government was in power at the Centre, the then Prime Minister had given instructions that we ought to formulate a new, comprehensive policy package for dealing with the problems of khadi and village industries. He set up a Committee. The Prime Minister himself was the Chairman of that Committee. The Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission was the Vice-Chairman, I was a member and several distinguished representatives of the khadi industry were also members of that Committee. That high-powered Committee came with a unanimous report. But I find, Madam, that there is a great unrest among the khadi workers. Because of the growing uncertainty about the admissibility of rebate, also the growing uncertainty about the availability of

working capital funds for various khadi and village industry enterprises, there is growing unemployment. I would, therefore, urge the Government to come forward with a comprehensive policy package for the revitalisation and development of khadi and village industries. It is not a question of globalisation or non-globalisation. Whatever be the strategy of development for the revitalisation of India's rural economy, village and khadi industries will continue to play a very important role. Considering that our sentiments of freedom struggle were linked to the name of khadi, any subsidy that may be necessary to revitalise this vital sector, should be given and we should not grudge it. Therefore, I would urge the Government to come forward with a comprehensive policy package attending to the serious problems being faced by khadi workers all over the country.

SHRI T.N. CHATURVEDI (Uttar Pradesh): Madam, Chairperson, I associate myself ...*(Interruptions)*...

उपसभापतिः आप केवल एसोशिएट कर दीजिए।

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): Madam, I would like to respond on behalf of the Government. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI T.N. CHATURVEDI: Madam Chairperson, I associate myself with the sentiments expressed by Dr. Manmohan Singh, the Leader of the Opposition. As regards the hostorical role and the future role, I would say that khadi has to play an important role in the economic destiny of our country.

श्री संघ प्रिय गौतम (उत्तर प्रदेश): मैडम, मैं इससे अपने आपको संबद्ध करता हूं और प्रार्थना करता हूं कि कांग्रेस के लोग संकल्प लें कि वे भी खादी पहनेंगे।

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We are going to have a discussion on this issue on 16th of this month. The whole House associates with it, those who wear khadi and also those who do not wear khadi. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU (West Bengal): Madam, I seek one clarification. ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Just a minute. The Minister has to say something different.

SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL: Madam, he raised a very important issue on a very important day, i.e. 9th of August. Taking into account the seriousness of this issue, it has been decided to have a Calling Attention Motion on this

issue on 16th of this month. There would be a detailed discussion on this issue on that day and the Government will respond.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Thank you. That is a good announcement for the 9th of August. Actually, it should have been today, only then it would have its significance..*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO (Goa): Madam, I seek one clarification.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, no; we are not having any discussion on it. Therefore, no clarifications please. Now, we have to take up Special Mentions ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Madam.

उपसभापति: आपकी क्या समस्या है?

Re: ACTIVITIES OF THE OFFICIALS OF THE AMERICAN CONSULATE GENERAL IN CALCUTTA

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU (West Bengal): I just want to draw, through you, the attention of the House and the Government to a very disturbing report. Last week, the Consul General's Office of the United States of America sent two..*(Interruptions)*...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, no; the Chairman has permitted him only to bring it to the notice of the Government. That is all. I am saying that no discussion will take place on it. Nobody else would speak ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Madam, I am not discussing. I am just mentioning. Two political analysts from the office of the Consul General of the United States of America, situated in Calcutta, went to a village called Suchpur in Nanur block of Birbhum district in West Bengal. Incidentally, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee also hails from that area. They were supposedly studying the situation and analysing the situation pertaining to certain land related violence which took place there earlier. We think that internal developments don't fall within the purview of the activities of the Consul General's Office. And today, a statement was made by the Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri Ajit Panja, saying that this is a very regular activity of the Consul General's Office and they are entitled to do that. We understand that this is an encroachment upon the sovereign rights of the